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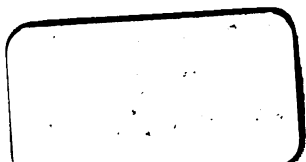
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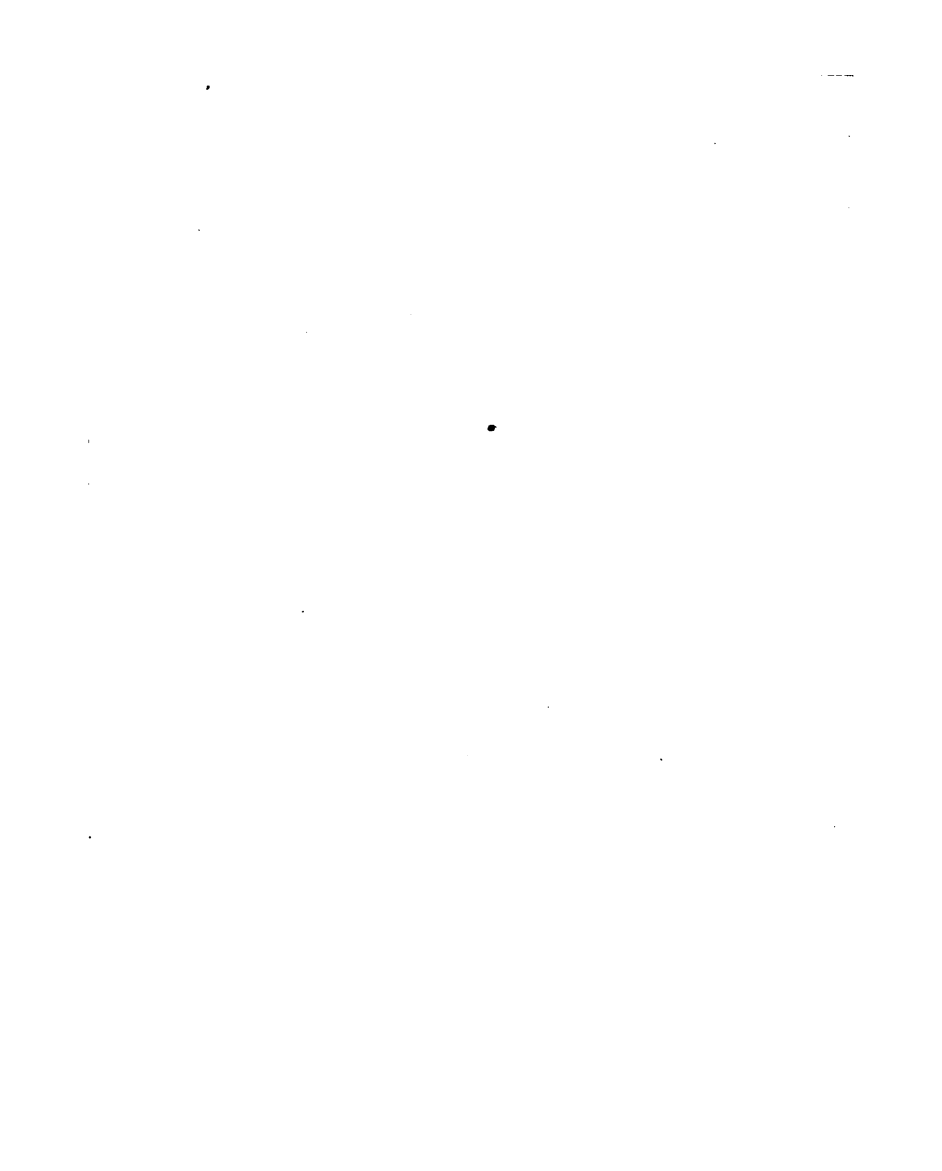
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GLANCES
AT
GERMANY, POLAND.
&c.

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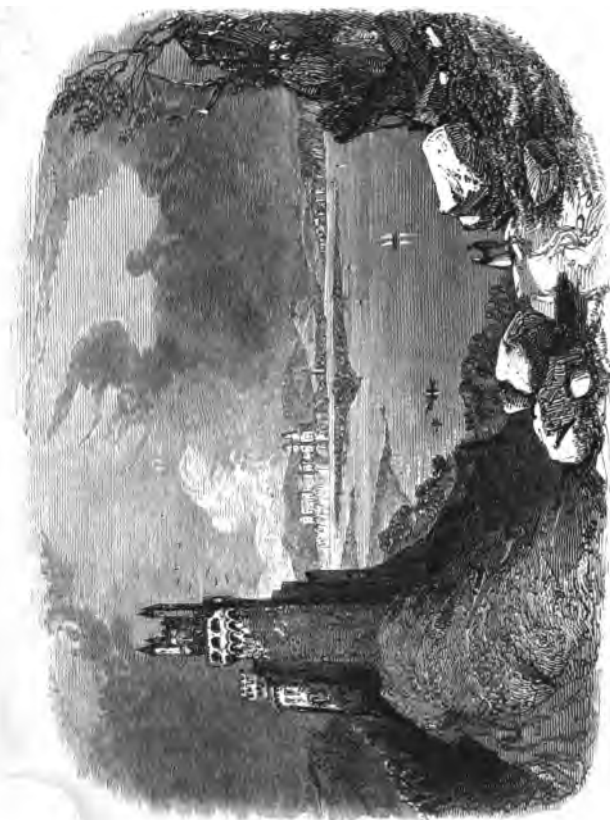
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GLANCES
AT
GERMANY, POLAND,
AND
THE EUXINE.

BY
THE AUTHOR OF "THE TENT," "RHODA," &c.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
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VIEW ON THE DAVUBE, WITH THE CONVENT OF MOLK IN THE DISTANCE.

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GLANCES AT GERMANY,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

SOME years ago, before the existence of those marvellously swift conveyances on railroads which are now so general, Mr. Howard, an English gentleman, had occasion to undertake a journey to a remote part of Europe—the Black Sea.

As he could not obtain ample information from the accounts of former travellers as to the best route thither, he took the map of Europe for his guide; and proceeding to Calais, he pur-

chased a light German carriage, and taking post-horses, travelled rapidly, by way of Dunkerque, Lille, Tournai, Bruxelles, Louvain, and Maestricht, to Aix la Chapelle, a large and handsome town of Germany.

The cathedral is a fine Gothic edifice, and is said to contain some extraordinary relics ; but they are only exhibited to royal personages. The marble chair, however, on which the embalmed body of Charlemagne was found, in a sitting posture, three hundred years after his death, is shown to strangers. This marble chair served as a throne for several emperors of Germany at their coronations ; on those occasions, it was covered with costly materials.

Aix la Chapelle is famous for its mineral waters, and is on that account much resorted to by invalids.

The traveller made the best of his way, by the ancient city of Cologne, and Hessen-Cassel, to
-ig.



CATHEDRAL OF AIX LA CHAPELLE.

Although he could express himself in the German language, so as to make himself understood by the postillions and others, he could not always comprehend them ; for they spoke rapidly, as we are all apt to do in our own tongue.

Sometimes our countryman made very droll mistakes in this way, at which he laughed quite as heartily as others might do. For instance, when travelling post, in Germany, a charge is made for what they call *schmier* : it is termed *schmiergeldt*. This is for greasing the carriage-wheels, and must be paid, whether the operation be performed or not. At Weimar, a man came out of the post-house with a bucket of black cart-grease, and a brush, and said to the English traveller, “ *Wollen sie schmieren?* ” “ Will you smear ? ” as Mr. Howard thought. He answered, “ No ” — *nein*, in German — “ he did not wish to smear either himself, or any other person.” On explanation, he found that the object of the inquiry was, to ascertain whether he would wish to

have his carriage-wheels *schmiered*, that is to say, greased. To this he willingly signified his assent, by saying, “*Ya, mein herr.*”

It was very inconvenient to be continually entering, quitting, and re-entering the different German States; for the current money, and the posting-regulations, varied in each. Thus the stranger was exposed to misunderstandings and loss.

Leipzig is a celebrated town of Germany. It has a castle and a university. The streets are handsome, and it is a place of great trade. There are three fairs at Leipzig every year, namely, in January, at Easter, and Michaelmas. These fairs, for merchandize, books, and other objects of value, afford as well the usual sources of amusement, and are open for fifteen days.

From the tower of the church of Jablonowski, Mr. Howard obtained a fine view of the field where the famous battle of Leipzig was fought, in 1813. A mill, where Napoleon took his

station during the battle, was pointed out to him, as well as a small village where the emperor slept.

From Leipzig, our traveller proceeded to Dresden, which city presents a noble aspect from a distance, and does not disappoint the visitor upon a nearer view. The houses are built of freestone, and there is a magnificent bridge over the Elbe, which is very wide at Dresden. The inhabitants are industrious, and there is a considerable trade in serge, cloth, and silk stuffs. The Dresden china is also justly celebrated, and has been considered superior to any other similar manufacture, excepting the porcelain of the royal manufactory at Sèvres, near Paris; but I believe that ornamental china is now made in England quite equal in point of beauty to the products of either of those renowned manufactories, and it is highly gratifying to those who love their country to know that it can compete with other nations in arts and manufactures.

Mr. Howard passed two hours very agreeably in the celebrated Dresden gallery of paintings. The director was exceedingly polite in pointing out to him the most remarkable pictures, seeing that he was pressed for time.



DRESDEN.

There is a noble view of the surrounding country from the tower of the Lutheran church, which is a very fine building. There are galleries round

the interior of the dome, which give it a grand appearance.

The public gardens and promenades of Dresden are beautiful.

The road from Görlitz to Breslau is very sandy. A singular effect is produced by the form of the windows in the roofs of the houses in this part of the country. These windows are made in the shape of an eye, and a small projection of the tiles immediately above them, imparts the character of a brow. As you drive along, these eyes seem to be watching you.

The wheels of the carts used on these sandy roads are very high and narrow, and many of the waggons are made of basket-work.


Breslau, the capital of Silesia, which forms a part of the kingdom of Prussia, is an interesting city. Mr. Howard followed his usual plan of mounting a tower, and enjoyed a magnificent prospect from that of the Protestant church of St. Elizabeth.

There are some fine public promenades and gardens at Breslau.

Brieg is a handsome town ; the entrance to it is through a Gothic gate. The roads in the vicinity are very sandy ; and the post-boys often said, on commencing the stage, “ *Viel sandt, mein herr* ” — “ Much sand, sir ; ” which was an indication of slow travelling.

A good deal of tobacco is grown near Brieg. The Silesian peasantry are civil and respectful ; but it pained Mr. Howard to see the poor peasant women employed in the most laborious manner.

The boundaries of the different German States are marked by wooden barriers, each of which consists of a long pole, which crosses the road, and is raised by a very simple process, when carriages or horses pass. These barriers are painted differently, so as to designate each separate territory. Thus the colours of Hessen-Cassel are green and white, of Saxony red and white, Prussia black and white, &c. &c.



At Oppeln, about twenty-five English miles beyond Brieg, Mr. Howard perceived that he was entering upon a part of the country which would present some novel features.

The houses, or huts, in the towns and villages are, for the most part, built of trunks of trees laid on each other, the interstices being filled up with mud, or rough cement. The logs become blackened with the smoke, which finds its way from the interior through numerous apertures. The roofs are very generally covered with thin pieces of wood, the size of tiles. Sometimes there are rude wooden piazzas in front of these miserable dwellings, and large uncouth wooden spouts project from the roofs, to carry off the rain-water.

At Tost, there is a picturesque ruin of an old castle ; the road from thence to Tarnowitz is bad beyond description. Mr. Howard's carriage was tossed about like a vessel in a gale of wind ; it had no sooner righted from a deep rut on one

side, than down it went on the other, and then pitched forward into a hole, full of black stagnant water.

At Königshütte there are extensive iron-works ; the country around is wild.

After traversing some very bad roads, and passing through several hamlets, whose inhabitants, and the peasantry in general, were squalid and miserable in the extreme, and having quite the Tartar physiognomy, Mr. Howard arrived at the city of Cracow, the entrance to which is by no means prepossessing ; the carriage was actually embedded in mud, and by the way-side were a number of wretched hovels, inhabited by Jews.

Cracow is called a free city, and is under the protection of Russia, Austria, and Prussia. It is situated on a vast plain, watered by the Vistula. The streets are wide and handsome ; and in the great square in the centre of the city are some very good houses, which were formerly richly

furnished ; but when Mr. Howard was there, they seemed to be either unoccupied, or sinking into ruins. The public promenades were good, and the churches numerous and handsome.

Mr. Howard having had occasion to enter a shop to make a small purchase, a gentleman, who came in shortly afterwards, observing that he had a little difficulty in making himself understood, took an opportunity of addressing him very politely, and in good English, offering to make his wishes known to the master of the shop. In the course of conversation, he said, that having heard that an English traveller had arrived, and feeling great respect for England and its institutions, he had wished and endeavoured to meet with him, and was anxious to show him every attention in his power. Mr. Howard could not feel otherwise than highly gratified and obliged.

This Polish gentleman was about five-and-twenty years of age ; the expression of his countenance was very pleasing and intelligent. He

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kindly accompanied Mr. Howard to the cathedral, where, amongst other monuments, was the tomb of Kosciusko. He sighed, as he pointed out the patriot's resting-place, and evidently mourned over the melancholy fate of his country.

This gentleman had never been in England, but he was well versed in its history and literature. On the way back to the hôtel, he invited Mr. Howard to visit his residence; and the English traveller was much pleased to find that the chief portion of his small but select library consisted of the works of the best British authors. He spoke English almost without a foreign accent; and it appeared that he was self-taught, and had perfected himself in the conversational part during his acquaintance with an English gentleman, who resided for some time in Cracow.

It is highly gratifying to find that, notwithstanding unhappy wars, which, besides the frightful shedding of human blood, strike deadly blows at the benign principles of Christian charity,

and give rise to pernicious international prejudices, the British name is respected by the good and the enlightened in all countries; for it was to the circumstance of his being a Briton, that Mr. Howard was indebted for the spontaneous offer of services on the part of this Polish gentleman.

Cracow is pronounced Crakoff, by the Poles.





CHAPTER II.

At Wieliezca, three German, or thirteen English miles and a half from Cracow, on the Vienna road, there are some extensive salt-mines.

The small town of Wieliezca is situated at the foot of the first chain of the Crapac, or Carpathian mountains, which divide Hungary and Transylvania from Poland; and the celebrated

salt-mines in its immediate neighbourhood are said to have been discovered about the middle of the thirteenth century, under the reign of Boleslas V. king of Poland ; and their product was one of the principal sources whence the privy purse of the sovereigns of Poland was supplied.

These ancient mines consist of three stories, and there are seven shafts by which the salt is brought to the surface.

Those who wish to visit the mines, are, after inscribing their names in a book kept for that purpose by the director, supplied with long loose blouses, or gowns, which they put on over their clothes, to prevent them from being injured by the salt-dust. There are two methods of descending ; one is called the cable plan, because, under a large shed, there is what appears to be the mouth of a well of large dimensions, across which is a roller, with a stout rope wound round it to a great thickness. Fixed to this rope are three rows of pliable seats, made of strong web,

like that used for saddle-girths. The lower seats are occupied by little boys, holding lamps in their hands, and singing ; in a seat in the centre sits a miner, who acts as conductor, and above him are the visitors.

As soon as they are seated in their swinging chairs, the rope is allowed to run out, and you descend into the abyss with great rapidity. The light from the lamps is barely sufficient to give an idea of the profundity of the chasm over which one is suspended. The conductor has a stout pole, with which he skilfully directs the frail swing, fending it off, by pressing the stick forcibly against the walls of the shaft, and thus avoiding the frequent and dangerous shocks which would otherwise ensue. In about two minutes, you reach what is called the first story.

The other mode of descending to the first story, is by a rough winding staircase, cut in the solid salt. It consists of four hundred and seventy steps, with frequent landing-places, where

those who adopt this plan are obliged to rest several minutes at a time, in order to avoid the giddiness which such a long winding descent would otherwise occasion.


What a singular and magnificent scene was presented to Mr. Howard's view at this division of the mine! The most striking object was a chapel, dedicated to St. Anthony, cut out of a mass of crystallized salt, of a beautiful rose-colour, and quite transparent. It is supported by numerous columns, left purposely in a rough state during the excavation, and afterwards fashioned so as to have the appearance of having been sculptured in the usual manner, and raised to support the roof, which is also appropriately embellished with architectural ornaments, carved out of the solid rock; and the pulpit is hollowed out of the same material.

The effect, when the lights were introduced into this chapel, was brilliant in the extreme; and it was pleasant to observe, that, in these

subterranean regions, where so many Christians passed their days, there was a temple dedicated to the worship of the Almighty, who cares for all his creatures, whether they be basking in the sunshine on the surface of this glorious earth, or delving beneath it, in search of valuable materials for the use and comfort of mankind.

This vein of crystallized and beautifully tinted salt is now exhausted. Out of a few fragments which have been preserved, the miners make small cannon, for toys, imitation-watches, rings, and other ornaments, which they are permitted to sell to visitors.

Near the chapel stands a statue, of the natural size, of Augustus II., king of Poland, chiselled with great skill, out of a single block of rock-salt. It was sent to Warsaw, the capital of Poland, and was considered to be a most remarkable and valuable work of art ; but as, after some time, signs of injury from exposure to the air were observed, it was sent back to the more



congenial atmosphere of the region where it was sculptured, the salt-mine of Wieliczca.


A still more brilliant place than the chapel, is the *klosza*, or lustre-hall, a name given to it by the miners, because an immense chandelier, beautifully made of crystallized salt, is suspended from the roof. This hall is supported by thick lofty columns of salt; and the whole place sparkles as though it were studded with diamonds and precious stones, when, as was the case when Mr. Howard saw it, it is illuminated by torches, and lamps, and the brilliant chandelier is lighted up with a profusion of wax candles. A variety of corridors branch off from this grand lustre-hall, and form a labyrinth in which a stranger would be irremediably lost, unless he were accompanied by a guide.

Between the lustre-hall and the chapel, there is an obelisk of solid salt, with an inscription, commemorative of the Emperor of Austria's visit to the mine, in 1817.

There are numerous other corridors, and halls, and chambers, which owe their origin to the excavations. Most of the passages in the first division are supported by heavy beams and timber-work; but this ancient method, which, in addition to its insecurity, from the progress of decay in the wood, was productive of danger from fire, is not followed with regard to the lower compartments, which are supported by columns of rock-salt, as before described.

Mr. Howard found that the deeper they penetrated into the bowels of the earth, the salt became purer, and more abundant; therefore these extraordinary mines were dug perpendicularly, instead of horizontally, as is the case in other mines, after having been sunk to a certain depth. The air in all parts of the mines is said to be pure and wholesome; the gas is harmless, and does not occasion explosions.

Several hundred workmen were employed in the mine; they wrought eight hours daily, re-



turning to the surface of the earth in the evening, and rejoining their families in the town of Wieliezca, and its vicinity. Each miner has a lamp strapped round his waist.

The blocks of salt, which are cut in the form of casks, weighing from five to six hundred-weight, are hoisted to the surface by machinery, set in motion by horses. The smaller blocks and detached pieces are packed in casks in the mine.

There are four descriptions of salt in the Wieliezca mines, namely, the rough, or coarse, the green, the white, and the transparent crystallized. The first layer of pure salt is met with at a depth of a thousand feet, the kind previously found being mixed with clay, shells, and petrifactions.

Since these mines have become the property of Austria, it is said that their produce forms one of the most important sources of the revenue of that empire.

In the second division, among many objects

of wonder and interest, is an immense excavation, the lofty arch of which is lost in the obscurity ; and the lower part, excepting a ledge, protected by a wooden balustrade, is a lake, the water being so strongly impregnated with salt that its surface appears perfectly black.

Mr. Howard, who visited the mine on a festival, when crowds resort thither to view the wonders of the place, had an opportunity of seeing the singular effect produced by an exhibition on this mysterious lake, for the diversion of visitors.

A flat-bottomed boat was detached from the shore, and rowed to the opposite bank ; presently melodious sounds, of a melancholy cast, were heard ; they were produced from the simple instrument called the harmonica, played by some one out of sight. On a sudden, blue-lights, and other illuminating substances were thrown up by the person in the boat, displaying all the subterranean wonders in a strong light, which, flashing on the labourers in their light-coloured

blouses, or gowns, imparted an unearthly character to the figures. Several rockets were then thrown up, illuminating the lofty arches above, in all their fantastic forms.

In a moment all was darkness; the sudden transition was astounding.

As the crowd was pressing along the narrow ledge, Mr. Howard obtained the services of a miner, who conducted him, together with some other visitors, to a less crowded outlet from the hall of the lake.

This gave him an opportunity of inspecting the third, or lower division.

After having descended to it, by a long staircase cut in the firm salt, they passed through several dark and narrow passages, which their guide told them were not *quite* safe, and that visitors were not often conducted along them. This ominous announcement, it will naturally be supposed, caused the party to increase their pace; but as they were hurrying on, the miner suddenly

stopped them, saying, "You are now exactly underneath the lake."

At these words, everybody looked up, and, pendant from the soil over their heads, were perceived what seemed to be icicles of considerable size, but which were stalactites, formed of crystallized salt, which had penetrated the bed of the lake. The party did not remain long in this dangerous tunnel.

They afterwards witnessed the method of blowing up the rock with gunpowder. The echoes of the explosions resounded like a succession of peals of thunder along the vaults, passages, and excavations, of various descriptions, in these subterranean regions, and produced a solemn effect.

It took six hours to visit, in a cursory manner, a portion of this wonderful mine; and Mr. Howard was assured that it would require more than a month, passing eight hours in it every day, to examine it minutely. He was highly delighted, however, with what he had seen.

CHAPTER III.

MR. HOWARD now travelled more rapidly. The Austrian imperial high-roads are good, and the Polish postillions very active. The corn-fields had a rich appearance, but the peasantry were squalid, and the hamlets they inhabited miserable.

At length he arrived at the city of Lemberg, near which there are some remarkable hills. Whenever the name of a town terminates with the syllable *berg*, it signifies that hills or mountains are in its immediate neighbourhood.

Lemberg, or Leopold, as it is sometimes called, is the capital of Austrian Gallitzia. It is a large city, and contains many handsome edifices. It is also a place of considerable trade, in the different branches of which the Jews take an active part; they form, indeed, a considerable portion

of the population. Many important events during the wars with the Turks took place in this city and its vicinity.

From a conversation which Mr. Howard had with an intelligent gentleman at Lemberg, he ascertained that the lot of the peasantry of that part of the country was as unhappy as their appearance was miserable. They are serfs, that is, slaves. Their masters give them huts, and a small patch of land; but the serfs are obliged to work two, three, and sometimes four days in the week, for the *seigneurs*, or lords of the estates; so that they have but little time to cultivate their own small gardens. The serfs cannot quit the estate, or enter upon any condition of life which might give them the means of procuring their freedom, without the permission of their lords. It is true, that, in bad seasons, when they cannot support themselves and their families, the latter are bound to contribute towards the maintenance of the serfs.

The *kayserlichs chaussée*, or imperial road from Lemberg to Brody, a distance of fourteen German, equal to sixty-three English miles, is excellent, being made on the same principle as our macadamized roads. The scenery, too, is interesting; and Mr. Howard observed with pleasure the vivifying effect of commerce in the better style of the habitations, and an air of ease and comfort in the people. Waggon, laden with merchandise, were continually passing.

Brody is a free town, with a population of about thirty thousand, twenty-five thousand of whom are Jews.

Mr. Howard continued his journey across the fertile plains of Wolhynia, Podolia, and the Ukraine. The villages through which he passed were comfortable. The churches have, generally, three towers, or spires; and a fourth, at a short distance from the main edifice, serves for a belfry. These churches are built of wood, and are roofed with shingles, neatly arranged. Sometimes the

spires are covered with plates of tin ; this gives a brilliant, but cold appearance, and is not in character with the homeliness of the lower part of the edifices.

The poor peasant women in those parts do not wear either shoes or stockings ; they are clothed in coats made of sheepskins, with the woolly side turned inwards, and merely strapped round the waist ; sometimes the garment is made of coarse sacking.

As Mr. Howard approached the *steppes*, he was struck by the Tartar-like physiognomy of the peasantry ; they had high cheek-bones, flat noses, and large mouths.

Nothing can be more desolate than the aspect of these *steppes*. Not a tree or a shrub is to be seen ; and our traveller had to pursue his way through clouds of dust, the only indications of vicinity to the haunts of men being some herds of oxen, which were occasionally seen feeding on the short parched grass. These oxen were large,

and, with few exceptions, of a dun colour ; so that, as there was no regular road, nor fence, these herds were frequently discovered suddenly, when the traveller was in the midst of them ; for



the grass, the dust, and the cattle, were all of one and the same colour. The undulatory hills, called *steppes*, when a lull of wind allowed the

eye to roam over them, resembled the long smooth swell of the ocean in a calm, after a violent gale ; whilst a large waggon, covered with canvass, looming in the distance, might, without any great effort of the imagination, have been compared to a vessel on the verge of the horizon, spreading every sail to catch an air of wind, (as the sailors say,) in order to keep the ship from rolling over.

The heat was intense, and the dust affected both the sight and respiration. Mr. Howard, on the day that he had reason to believe he should arrive at Odessa, looked out for the Euxine, or Black Sea ; but the obstacles to vision were impenetrable. At noon, he halted at a little inn, at the door of which there was a travelling-carriage, or *calèche* ; this was a good sign. He was shown into a room, where two gentlemen were partaking of some refreshment ; and they informed him—they were Polish gentlemen, and spoke French fluently—that they had left Odessa early in the morning.

Mr. Howard was delighted, and having given the postillion an extra fee, urged him to make the best of his way; he did so, and the carriage was rapidly drawn over dusty plains, and through three villages, named Shiraif, Baranow, and Pototski, and many *werstes* * beyond: still the English traveller could not discover either spires, or domes, or sea. Evening was approaching, and the wind and dust became almost insupportable.

On a sudden, they ascended a hill—the carriage stopped—voices were heard—a wooden barricade was perceptible through the cloud of dust—a building of rather mean appearance was close by—it was the gate of Odessa! The officers stationed at the barrier advanced, as did also a sentinel; Mr. Howard's passport was demanded, and the usual formalities having been complied

* The Russian *werste* is rather more than half an English mile.

with, the carriage was allowed to proceed ; and Mr. Howard, after traversing several very wide streets, in which he did not see so many persons circulating as he had expected, alighted at the *Hôtel du Club*, in Odessa.

The master of the house, an Italian, welcomed him in the French language, and led the way to a bedroom, on the first floor. This hôtel is a large establishment, having a gallery round a court-yard, on to which the doors of the apartments open, something like those in some of the old inns in London.

Thirty-seven days had elapsed since Mr. Howard left London ; and when it is considered that he had to find his way partly through countries to which he had no guide, from the narratives of previous travellers, he may be said to have made rapid progress.



ODESSA.

CHAPTER IV.

THE Euxine, or Black Sea, lies between Europe and Asia, its outlet being by the straits of the Bosphorus, or channel of Constantinople, into the Sea of Marmora.

It was the source of many absurd fables invented by the ancients. It was said to abound

in sand-banks, reefs, and rocks inhabited by giants; and the utmost terror was excited by the fabulous accounts of the ferocity of those who dwelt on its coasts, of their hatred towards strangers, and their odious sacrifices; it was therefore called Axenos, or inhospitable, by the Grecians.

In the course of time, however, these illusions became dispelled. The Greeks, animated by the spirit of commerce, undertook voyages to the Sea of Axenos, and, eventually, finding its coasts inhabited by peaceable people, of a totally different stamp from those whom they had been led to regard with so much dread, they established colonies in all directions; a friendly intercourse ensued, and gratitude succeeding to prejudice in the breasts of the Greeks, they changed the name of Axenos, to that of Pontos-Euxinos, or hospitable sea. The name of Black Sea was afterwards added, on account of the fogs which sometimes prevail.

This Sea is called in the Turkish language,

Kara-Degniz ; in the Russian, Czarne-More ; and in the German, Schwarze-Meer ; and the principal rivers which flow into it, are the Danube, Dniester, Bog, Dnieper, and Couban, or Kuban.

In more modern times, the Turks were the exclusive navigators of the Black Sea, a privilege which they retained for three hundred years, but under their domination commerce languished ; the exactions of the Turkish government and its pachas impoverished, harassed, and diminished the population on its shores, whilst hordes of plunderers infested the northern coast.

The spot upon which the rich and flourishing commercial city of Odessa is built, was, in the year 1789—little more than fifty years ago—the site of a poor Tartar village, called Kodjabey, near which there was a fort, garrisoned by Turkish troops. This fort was erected for the protection of the bay, or harbour, where the Turkish vessels, both of war and the commercial

marine, which navigated the Black Sea, were in the habit of taking shelter in stormy weather, and in the winter season. Kodjabey was also the place whence corn and other agricultural productions were shipped for Constantinople.

Russia having, in the last partition of Poland, obtained the portion of that unfortunate kingdom bordering on the shores of the Black Sea, the Empress of Russia, Catharine the Second, became desirous to procure a suitable seaport, whence the productions of the fertile districts thus newly acquired, could be embarked for the markets of foreign countries, Russia having already, by a treaty with the Turks, obtained the privilege of free navigation of the Black Sea; a privilege which was afterwards extended to Austria, and, eventually, to other European states, including England.

The harbour of Kodjabey, the village, and fort, were duly reconnoitred, and reported to be suitable for this important object. But there

was a strong Turkish garrison in the fort, and a Turkish flotilla, consisting of two large armed vessels, called xebecks, four other vessels, and thirty-three gun-boats, at anchor in the bay. The Russian forces having arrived within half a mile of the fort without being discovered, took it by assault, before the commander of the Turkish flotilla was aware of an attack being even contemplated. When he saw the Russian flag floating on the battlements, he commenced a cannonade; but the shot were so badly directed, that they fell at a great distance beyond the fort, the guns of which were turned upon the flotilla, which, with the exception of three gun-boats that surrendered, sailed away for Constantinople. A few days afterwards, the grand Turkish fleet, consisting of twenty-six men-of-war, either line of battle ships, or frigates, hove in sight. Such an imposing force appeared sufficient to annihilate the handful of men in possession of the fort and village, but the Turkish fleet was badly com-

manded. A number of useless nautical manœuvres were performed, a great deal of gunpowder was wasted ; the Turkish sailors and marines uttered most frightful shouts and cries ; and, after making several tacks, the fleet sailed off without one of the bullets from the broadsides of the vessels composing it having reached the shore.

These events took place in the summer of the year 1789.

The environs were destitute of wood, excepting some thickets which the Russian soldiers cut down for fuel ; and some wretched hovels, built of mud, and almost level with the ground, were the only habitations in the hollow, where the best gardens of the city were afterwards planted.

The Empress Catharine took a great interest in this conquest, so important for the prosperity of the valuable portion of her dominions called New Russia.

The plan for a city, to be called Odessa, was upon a grand scale, as well as that for the works

for the formation of a commodious harbour ; but their execution lingered for several years. However, in the year 1802, two hundred and eighty vessels arrived from the Mediterranean and Constantinople, and returned laden with wheat and other grain ; and several mercantile establishments had been formed. At that period, the population amounted to between seven and eight thousand persons.


Odessa, like all newly-established colonies, became an asylum for the refuse of neighbouring countries. Three hundred Jewish families also settled at Odessa ; they came chiefly from Galitzia. Great numbers of artizans and workmen of all kinds likewise flocked to the new city in search of employment.

Various privileges were conferred on Odessa, by the Empress Catharine, the Emperor Paul, and the Emperor Alexander ; it was exempted from all taxes for twenty-five years. The city arrived, with extraordinary rapidity, at a high

rank, in a commercial point of view. Merchants, with large capitals, established themselves in Odessa in great numbers; and the profits on their mercantile transactions were enormous. The labourers obtained high wages; handsome and commodious houses were rapidly built, and rents augmented in proportion to the constant demand.

In the course of eleven years, that is, from 1803 to 1814, the population was augmented from about eight thousand souls, to upwards of thirty thousand, not including the garrison; and a handsome city stood where, but a few years before, there were only a few miserable huts. The population consisted of Greeks (who were the most numerous), Russians, Poles, Italians, French, a few English, Germans, Spaniards, Jews, Armenians, Tartars, Moldavians, &c.

In 1833, the population of Odessa exceeded fifty thousand; and the waste land in the immediate neighbourhood having been granted to those who would engage to cultivate it, there are now



extensive vineyards, and market gardens, and handsome avenues of trees leading to the different entrances of the city.

The merchants of Odessa lived in great splendour, and all went on prosperously for a few years. It also became a place of resort for Polish and Russian families of distinction in the summer season, for the purpose of sea-bathing; but the trade had fallen off to a certain extent when Mr. Howard arrived, owing to the temptation to inundate the market with merchandise, in the hope of a continuance of the enormous profits when the supplies were limited.

Mr. Howard had some transactions with the Greeks, whom he found very intelligent and artful. They were the chief importers of wines, from the Archipelago, grapes, and dried fruits; cotton, and other stuffs, from the Levant; perfumes, shawls, oil, coffee, spices, soap, Turkish tobacco and pipes, amber mouth-pieces for pipes, &c. The Armenians also traffic in these articles; the best

attar of roses, and balm of Mecca, are to be obtained from the latter. France supplies wine, brandy, oil, cloth, silk, all sorts of manufactured goods, and light jewellery, porcelain, engravings, books, and so forth. Italy sends wines, liqueurs, oil, vermicelli, sulphur, articles of taste, sculpture, and works of art. Spain furnishes wines, lead, cochineal, indigo, drugs, coarse cloths, and mats. Port and Madeira wines are brought from Portugal. And though last, not least, England sends her innumerable manufactures, and the produce of her colonies, as well as of the places to which she trades.

The exports of corn are chiefly for the Archipelago, the Ionian Islands, Trieste, Venice, Malta, the different parts of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France. The chief part of this corn is grown in the Ukraine, Podolia, and Wolhynia. The other principal exports are wool, furs, Astrakan lamb-skins, wax, Russia leather (called *jouftis*), hides, tallow, butter (for Constantinople), honey, linseed, cordage, and many other articles.

The coasting trade is considerable to Taganrog, and to all the Crimea, or Crim-Tartary, which was ceded to Russia, in 1785, by the Khan Chahim Gueray, with the consent of the Grand Seignor, or sovereign, of Turkey. The Crimea is a peninsula lying on the Black Sea, by which it is bounded on the west and south, and on the east and north-east by the Sea of Asoph. The Crimea is the ancient Taurus Chersonesus.

Mr. Howard had letters of introduction to some of the principal merchants of Odessa, and other persons of intelligence and influence. He was received with great kindness, and was favoured with the most friendly attentions during his stay of about three months in that interesting city, which, from the foregoing sketch of its rapid rise and varied inhabitants, it will readily be imagined offered some peculiar features to the traveller's observation.

Mr. Howard removed, in about a week, from

the hôtel to private apartments, in a large house, in the most frequented part of the city, whence he had also a view of the harbour. As he did not speak Russian, he hired an additional servant—a Greek—who understood seven or eight languages, including the French, which Mr. Howard spoke fluently. He was an obliging, honest man, had travelled much as a courier and upper-servant with persons of distinction in Turkey, Greece, and various parts of the continent of Europe, and was well acquainted with New Russia, of which Odessa is the capital.

He was of great use to Mr. Howard, as an interpreter, in his walks about Odessa, in order to inform himself as to the habits and customs of its inhabitants.

The society of Odessa was as varied as the elements of which it was composed. There were at that time but few English residents ; and the Russians, Greeks, French, and Italians, limited their visitings, generally speaking, to their re-

spective compatriots. The French and Italian languages were generally spoken in the best Russian society, in preference to the Russian dialect. The Russians speak foreign languages with great correctness and facility. It is not uncommon, in the genteel walks of life, for children of seven or eight years old to speak Russian, German, French, and Italian; some of which languages they become imperceptibly acquainted with, in consequence of persons of different countries being attached to the establishments of their parents.

The mass of the peasantry, in New Russia, form part of the numerous population called Little Russians; being of the same race as the inhabitants of Podolia, Wolhynia, Pultowa, part of Gallitzia, &c. They differ, in many respects, from the Muscovites or Grand Russians, and speak an idiom of the Slavonic, or a mixture of the Russian and Polish languages.



CHAPTER V.

THE morning after Mr. Howard's arrival at Odessa, he hired a public carriage from a stand close to his hôtel, in order to deliver his letters of introduction.

These carriages, which are called *Droshkis*, are of a very different description to those which,

under a variety of denominations, ply for hire in London.

The *droshki* is built very low, and is usually made to convey one person only, though two or even three passengers are occasionally rather inconveniently accommodated. The general way for a gentleman to sit, is, as though he were on horseback.

In a letter to a friend in England, Mr. Howard described his experience of *droshki* - riding as follows :—

“ Having occasion to mount one of these (to me) novel vehicles, I was at a loss to know how to arrange my legs ; for I had no notion of riding on cushion-back. However, I watched others, bestrode my rocking-horse,—for the springs are so elastic that the carriages yield to the slightest impulsion,—and was soon regularly installed *à la Russe*. The public *droshkis* are, for the most part, drawn by two horses ; and one of them has his head tied *up* to a kind of hoop, which rises

from the ends of the shafts to about a foot from his ears: this gives him a grand appearance. The other is so harnessed as to have his head drawn *down* almost to the ground, and on one side; which, together with the management of the reins, causes him to curvet. It is very painful to see the poor creatures thus fettered and fretted, for mere show.

“The driver sits on a very small dickey-box; his dress is picturesque, consisting of a very low hat, widening at the top, ornamented with a broad silken band and bright buckle: he wears a kind of frock-coat, fitting close to the waist, round which it is strapped; this coat has no collar, and the hair, though very thick, being cut extremely short all round, the lower part of the back of the head is bare, as is also the neck. Many of these drivers have long beards. I have heard them singing wild, but not unpleasing airs, and they appeared to me to have a natural good taste for music.”

The carriages of the Russian and Polish nobility are generally drawn by four horses, of which a great parade is made. The leaders are at a distance from the wheel-horses quite unusual in this country; the traces being eleven or twelve feet long, and fastened in a point to the carriage-pole. There is a coachman and a postillion: the latter is generally a lad, dressed something like a *droshki*-driver; and it is very curious that he rides on the right-hand or *off*-leader, holding the rein in his right, and the whip in his left, hand.

By day, the jockey gives notice of the approach of the aristocratic carriage by a shrill whistle, and at night by a shriek or scream.

The streets of Odessa are very wide, and generally of great length; but they have rather a desolate appearance, as the houses are for the most part low, though substantially built of stone. Some of them are very handsome edifices. The mansion of the Governor-General of New Russia, Count Woronzow, was magnificent, and situated

on the extremity of the public promenade, on a cliff overlooking the harbour.

The climate of Odessa is healthy; and, although house-rent is high, provisions are cheap. The bazaars, or market-places, are extensive. They consist of quadrangular spaces, along the sides of which are covered corridors, with rows of shops opening upon them. The bazaars for provisions present a variety of groups and costumes. The Russian peasants are very fond of tea; and the venders of this refreshing beverage station themselves in the different bazaars, with brazen kettles, and retail it to their customers in small mugs.

The Jews inhabit a separate quarter. There are, however, considerable numbers of a distinct and superior race, who do not associate with the others, or reside in their quarter of the city.

These are the Caraïtes, a Jewish sect who adhere closely to the text and letter of the Holy Scriptures, in which they require an implicit

faith. They reject the traditions, or oral law.

The Caraïte Jews are fine, tall, handsome men. Their costume is quite different to that of the other Jews. Their heads are shaven ; they wear high, conical caps, made of black Astrakhan lamb's-skin, full trousers, and short jackets ; and their appearance and demeanour are quite Asiatic. They are considered to be honest in their dealings ; they talk little, are very grave, and have expressive features. Mr. Howard was informed that the women of this race do not appear in public.

The Caraïte Jews deal in Turkish stuffs, tobacco, pipes, balm of Mecca, shawls, coffee, attar of roses, Astrakhan lamb's-skins, &c.

Among other public establishments visited by Mr. Howard, was that of the quarantine ; that is to say, the place where the cargoes of vessels which have passed by Constantinople are landed, and subjected to the examination and purification which are deemed necessary to guard against

infection from that fatal disease, the plague, which has so often depopulated Oriental countries.

Passengers arriving in these vessels are also placed in quarantine, for a certain period, before they are permitted to enter the city.

The term quarantine, or quarantain, originated in a custom of the celebrated city of Venice, the capital of the ancient republic of that name, whose magnificence and importance, in an artistic and commercial point of view, have excited the admiration of historians and travellers at all periods, although its political history is replete with deplorable instances of inquisitorial tyranny.

The quarantine, first established at Venice, was a regulation whereby all merchants, or others, coming from the Levant, were obliged to remain forty days in the house of St. Lazarus before they could be admitted into the city; although, if they brought letters of health,—that is, documents proving that the places they came from, or had

touched at, were exempt from any infectious disease, — the time was frequently shortened. This house was built on piles in the water, and was surrounded with a wall ; thence the name of *Lazaretto*, now universally applied to quarantine establishments in every part of the world ; and, in England and other countries, vessels (with their crews, passengers, and cargoes) which arrive from countries liable to the plague, without what are called clean bills of health, are subjected to a longer or shorter period of quarantine, as the case may be.

Mr. Howard visited the quarantine establishment at Odessa, with one of the principal merchants, from whom he invariably received kindness and hospitality ; and he had thus an opportunity of witnessing some of the formalities of the place.

There is a long mole, or pier, to which the masters of vessels come, in their boats, to confer with the merchants to whom they are *consigned* ;

a commercial phrase designating the parties charged with the business connected with the ship and cargo. Two or three commanders of merchantmen, which were consigned to Mr.——'s house, were waiting for him. A wooden paling separated Mr. Howard and his friend from the quay, and the latter had enough to do to answer the captains, who occasionally spoke all at the same moment, and on different matters of business. He contrived, at length, to satisfy all parties; and the masters of the merchantmen ordered their boats'-crews to row off to their respective vessels.

In another part are the *parloirs*, where the persons who are performing quarantine assemble in the day-time, and are allowed to converse with their friends through a grating. Adjoining is a long jetty, whereon they can take exercise, and their lodgings are at a short distance from it.

There were several melancholy groups,—amongst them a few Turks,—in the *parloir*, and

on the jetty, when Mr. Howard was contemplating this strange scene; and it must be confessed that it is not pleasant to be cooped-up in a cage, as it were, for weeks together; but the evil is a necessary one, and the true way to alleviate it is to bear it with patience, and even to endeavour to extract from it some materials for cheerful and instructive recreation. This, with a steadfast reliance on Divine Providence, will smoothen many a rugged path in the pilgrimage of life.

Convicts are employed in the perilous duty of the examination and purifying process of the merchandise most suspected of containing the seeds of contagion.

The vessels are laden with cargoes of produce, in exchange for the merchandise they bring, without taking *pratique*, as it is called, which is a licence, or certificate, from the proper authorities, that the ship and crew are not infected with the plague, or any other contagious or

infectious disease. But, in order to obtain this certificate, a long probationary detention would be required ; being not only useless, but injurious, to the owners of the vessels, which would be far advanced on their homeward voyages before the expiration of the period required for obtaining *pratique*.

The lighters, or barges, used for conveying the cargoes to and from the vessels, are not allowed to have any sails, lest the canvass should imbibe and impart contagion ; and, on their return from delivering their lading, they are carefully washed, and inspected by officers appointed for that purpose.

All this renders Odessa a dull and dead seaport. There are no sailing-boats, no bustling quays—none of the life of a great maritime city ; and, in a place which gives employment to so much shipping, no sailors are seen about the streets.

Mr. Howard, in his letter, after describing this state of things, said :—

“To me, with my innate affection for the blue jacket and trousers, it seems quite out of character to have the sea open to the view, and no honest tars capering on the shore.”

In another part he wrote :—

“Almost everybody here smokes, after the Turkish fashion. The pipes are made of long cherry-sticks, which form a considerable article of commerce, from Tifflis, the capital of Georgia. The grand display is in the mouth-pieces, which are made of amber, and are more or less ornamented with enamel and gold : I have seen some decorated with precious stones. In houses where I have visited, several pipes were ranged along the walls in the dining-rooms. The Oriental custom of offering the pipe to visitors is kept up here. The amber mouth-piece is said to be a safeguard against any unpleasant consequences which might arise from different persons using the same pipe. The stem, or wooden tube, is long enough to rest upon the ground.”

A real Russian dinner is a formidable affair. It is customary to have a side-table covered with *caviare* (that is to say, the roes of the large fish called sturgeon, salted), Bologna sausages, and all sorts of dried meats, which are partaken of, in no sparing manner, *before* dinner, together with *liqueurs*.

“Then,” wrote Mr. Howard to his friend, “comes the dinner, which is abundant and superior; and the wine circulates freely. Afterwards coffee, liqueurs, and pipes are introduced. When you are at Rome, you know it behoves you to do as the Romans do, as far as their habits and customs do not interfere with your principles; but really there are some things that one *cannot* do. My complaisance carried me as far as my nature could go, and I partook of the good things which were successively and hospitably set before me, as long as possible; but at length I was obliged (I am now speaking of one memorable dinner) to say, ‘My dear sir, Rome was not built in a day;

I dare say that, in time, I shall be able to comply with the excellent customs of this country, and of your most hospitable house ; but, at present, my stomach is not so accommodating as I would fain it were : most reluctantly am I obliged to decline partaking of this choice dish.' ”

The majority of the inhabitants of Odessa are Christians, of the Greek Church. The principal religious edifice is large and handsome. It has a cupola, covered with tin, and surmounted by a small gilt spire ; the walls are white, and the whole building presents a lively appearance. This church is situated in a large square. There are several smaller Greek churches in other parts of the city.

The Roman Catholic Church is a neat, though not an extensive, building. There is a Lutheran chapel, and an extensive Jewish synagogue.

There are numerous money-changers in Odessa, almost all of whom are Jews. Not only have they offices in different parts of the city, but they

have portable ones, which they plant in the most frequented thoroughfares. They consist of glass-cases, containing coins of all descriptions. These cases are placed upon tables, which are so contrived as to be doubled together, like camp chairs, at the close of the day; and in front of this moveable shop sits the Jew bullion-merchant, on a stool. No operation of exchange is too trifling for him; and he manages to make a living by this traffic.

The climate of Odessa is very variable: in the month of October the weather was alternately excessively hot, and piercing cold.

"The mode of heating the apartments," said Mr. Howard, in a letter written shortly before he left, "is to me comfortless. The stoves are commonly built in the antechamber, and one corner of your sitting-room is cut off by a wall of Dutch tiles, which reaches to the ceiling. You, who know how I love a cheerful fire-side, and to see my friends around me, will easily conceive that

these *ovens* are very insipid to me ; yet, although no crackling blaze is to be seen, I have caught myself, more than once, with my back turned towards the warm corner, and lost in a drowsy reverie, from which I have been roused by the scorching heat of the porcelain tiles. I endeavour to make myself happy wherever I may chance to be sojourning, and shall feel a good deal on quitting Odessa ; for I have been favoured with much kindness and attention by several amiable individuals."





CHAPTER VI.

MR. HOWARD made arrangements for leaving Odessa, for England, in company with a gentleman to whom he was introduced by a friend, and who had occasion to visit Trieste, an important sea-port and commercial city in Istria, which is a peninsula of Italy, lying on the north part of the

Gulf of Venice. Trieste belongs to Austria, and is beautifully situated on the side of a hill, and surrounded by vineyards.

As Vienna lay in the route of both the travellers, —the one on his way to Trieste, and the other to England,—they agreed to journey in company as far as the Austrian capital. Upon comparing their carriages, that belonging to Mr. S. proved to be the more roomy of the two ; Mr. Howard, therefore, disposed of his *calèche* : with regret, however ; for, when he looked at the stanch little carriage, in which he had performed his long journey, it brought to his mind the period when it served him for parlour and bed-room during many a weary day and night ; every pocket had some reminiscence attached to it ; and, although the traveller received many a hard knock as the little vehicle waddled through the Polish ruts, and occasionally one of its lower fore-wheels was seen rolling along a-head, whilst they (that is, the *calèche*, Mr. Howard, and the pos-

tillion) remained immoveable on the road, and all on one side, yet such was the simplicity of the construction of the carriage, that a new linch-pin set all to rights, and away they went again.

It was towards the end of November when Mr. Howard left Odessa, and the weather had become extremely cold. However, he provided himself with the needful means of guarding against its effects ; and, having taken leave of his friends, with the exception of two who insisted upon remaining with him until the last moment, he proceeded, with them, at about eight o'clock in the evening, in a *droshki*, to his travelling-companion's residence, whence they had agreed to start.

On arrival, they found Mr. S. surrounded by several of his friends.

Mr. Howard was enveloped in a large, black bear-skin, with the fur next to his person, and so contrived as to form a loose travelling-coat ; the outside being made of coarse cloth, of a pea-

green colour. He also wore a pair of large boots reaching above the knees, and lined with fur; a Greek cap, made of Astrakhan lamb's-skin, with a scarlet patch on the crown, adorned his head, and a red worsted scarf was twisted several times round his neck. This wrapper was so arranged as to admit of its covering his ears and nose in case of need. "Add to all these coverings, thick gloves, lined with fur, and you will have a tolerable notion," wrote Mr. Howard, from Vienna, "of the outlandish figure which was standing near the carriage, ready to set off, in a fine star-light night, at the end of November.

"Hearing a convulsive sound near me, as though some one were sobbing, I looked round, and perceived my poor Greek servant, who, from the time I had told him that I should not require his services beyond the period of my stay at Odessa, had appeared quite unhappy. Poor Giovanni was crying like a child; he got close to me, took my hand respectfully, kissed it; in

broken accents wished me a safe journey, and retired.

“The gates of the city being closed, we had made interest to have a Kozak to accompany us, with directions that we might be allowed to pass.

“All was now ready ; I shook hands with my two friends, my companion took an affectionate leave of those by whom he was surrounded, and we got into the carriage. We had provided ourselves with a good-sized, sonorous bell, which was strongly tied to the end of the carriage-pole, and was intended to announce our approach to the post-houses, as well as to give warning, on the road, at night.

“Off, then, we went ; our four horses running abreast. We soon reached the city-gate, which was opened wide at the voice of the Kozak, and dashed through at full gallop ; the driver calling out to the animals, and whipping them unmercifully. The mud flung from the horses’ heels pelted us,—for the carriage was open in front,—

and the bell rang loudly at every spring made by the horses, who, maddened by the confused din, ran away, and leaped rather a wide ditch at the side of the road, dragging the carriage after them. Fortunately, it remained blocked up in the dike. Before I knew exactly what was the matter, my brother-traveller had jumped out : I quickly followed his example. The horses were pacified by dint of great exertion ; and, putting our shoulders to the wheel, in the strongest sense of the phrase, we extricated the vehicle, and found our way into the road, from another part of the field."

Nothing remarkable occurred on the journey from Odessa to the Russian frontier. The Russian post-horses are small, rough-coated animals. They are never groomed, but are fetched up from the fields when required. The mud was so deep in some parts (it frequently reached the axle-tree), that they were obliged to take six or eight horses, to force the carriage through. This was

worse than the dust in the summer months ; but all obstacles were surmounted by perseverance and cheerfulness.

One morning, the towers of the city of Bender were seen in the distance.

Bender is the capital of Bessarabia, a territory lying between Moldavia, the Danube, the Black Sea, and Little Tartary, and is remarkable on account of its having been the place to which Charles the Twelfth, King of Sweden, retired, after having been defeated by Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, at the battle of Pultowa, in the Ukraine, in the month of June, 1709.

Mr. Howard much regretted that he could not visit a place so highly interesting, on account of the historical facts connected with it. He kept his eyes fixed upon the walls of Bender until they dwindled into a speck, and then, wrapping himself up in his fur coat, meditated on the vicissitudes of the monarch who, after such

brilliant feats, had been obliged to flee before a potentate no less extraordinary than himself, and whose army of eighty thousand men he had, but a short period before, defeated, with only eight thousand Swedes.



BENDER.

Charles fled to Bender, and claimed the hospitality of the Turks, which was instantly extended towards him. For several years, the

Grand Seigneur nobly maintained the brave, but eccentric, King of Sweden, and the few followers who had escaped with him from the battle-field, at Bender, or in its immediate neighbourhood.

Many well-authenticated anecdotes of the royal warrior's singular character, as displayed during his residence at Bender, are to be met with in the various histories of the period. Accustomed to a life of extreme activity and warlike excitement, Charles was quite out of his element when confined to the walls of a peaceful town ; and, having no enemies to fight against, he managed to become embroiled with his friends the Turks, who had treated him with so much forbearance and generosity ; until at length they were constrained to force him to change his residence from Bender to Adrianople, where he remained a year, and then returned to his own dominions.

Previously to this, however, he turned his

dwelling-house, in the suburb of Varnitza, into a fortress, in which he sustained a siege by the Ottoman troops ; in the course of which several of them and of his own faithful followers were killed, whilst he himself fought like a lion against those generous Moslems, who had no hostile intentions towards him. All they wished was to remove him from Bender,—which was kept in a continual state of agitation and alarm by his violent proceedings,—to the city of Adrianople ; where, having none of the imaginary causes of irritation by which he was haunted at Bender, he might be induced to live peaceably under the hospitable protection of the Turkish government.

There was no way of accomplishing this, but by force. The siege of the Swedish monarch's fortified house having failed, the Turks hit upon the expedient of shooting arrows, with lighted torches affixed to them, into an aperture which they had discovered ; so as to set the house on

fire. This was accomplished ; and the king, in his anxiety to extinguish the fire, seized a vessel full of liquid, thinking it was water, and cast it on the flames. But the contents of the vessel turned out to be brandy ! and the fire, instead of being allayed or subdued, became still more violent. At last the roof fell in ; but, although his fortress was no longer tenable, the King was resolved not to surrender :—

“ Come on, my friends ! ” cried the intrepid Charles ; “ let us sally forth, and cut our way to the Chancery, which is fire-proof.”

The Turkish troops, who surrounded the burning edifice, were thunderstruck at seeing the gate of the house thrown open, and the King of Sweden (instead, as they had supposed, merely making his escape from the flames), maddened by despair, rushing forth, with the remnant of his little troop, completely armed and in menacing attitudes ! Instead of crying out for quarter, each man fired off his two pistols together ; then,

throwing their fire-arms away, the gallant band drew their swords, and drove the Turks before them. But they were soon surrounded. The King wore his long military boots, as usual ; and his spurs having become entangled at this critical juncture, he fell down, was rushed upon by a score of Janizaries, and, when overpowered by numbers, threw his sword into the air rather than deliver it up. He then suffered himself to be carried to the Pacha's quarters, by the Turks,—some holding him by the legs, others by the shoulders,—without a word of impatience escaping from his lips, or a flash of fury from his eye ; on the contrary, he smiled on the Janizaries, and on the bearers, as they cried out *Alla!* in tones of indignation, mingled with respect : his anger and his sword were cast away together.

Mr. Howard was roused from his reverie by his companion, who called his attention to a large cart, or waggon, which was approaching them.

It contained a Moldavian family : the women were clothed in sheep-skins, and their faces were muffled-up, so as only to leave their eyes free.

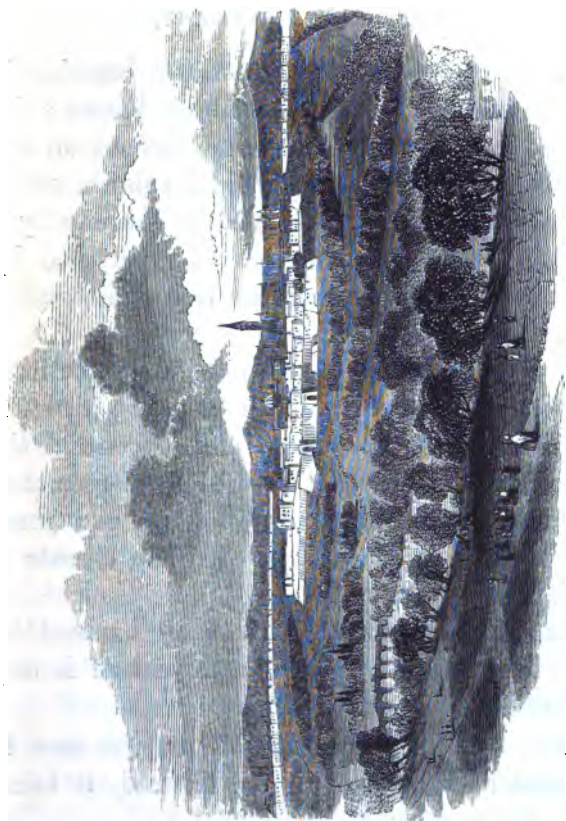
The travellers pursued their course rapidly, day and night, after entering Austria, until they reached its capital, Vienna.



CHAPTER VII.

VIENNA is situated on an unequal plain, across which flows the small river Wien, which is nearly dry in the summer season. The city, called Wien, in German, takes its name from this river.

The plain above-mentioned is belted by a chain of rather high mountains, which commence on the banks of the Donau, or Danube, and extend into Styria, and the Tyrol, forming, as it were, a natural boundary and rampart to the city. The base of these mountains, which descend gradually, and in the form of an amphitheatre, until very near the suburbs, consists of a mass of rugged stony hillocks, deep ravines, and steep chasms ; but these sites are embellished by beautiful country seats, and picturesque villages, whence the best view of Vienna is to be obtained.



VIENNA.

The Danube is divided into three branches in the immediate neighbourhood of Vienna; by these branches several islets are formed, on one of which is built the principal suburb, called Leopoldstadt, which is joined to the city by a bridge, as are likewise the other suburbs, by means of bridges over the Wien, and other branches of the Danube.

Vienna is no longer a fortified city; the ramparts are converted into promenades, and the imperial palace is situated close to one of the peaceful bastions. The suburbs are larger than the city itself, the streets of which are generally narrow, but well paved. The climate is variable.

Immense quantities of game are exposed for sale in the market-places, and venison is very plentiful.

The celebrated Prater of Vienna was seen to a great disadvantage by Mr. Howard, it being the winter season.

On a fine summer evening the scene is brilliant. In addition to a variety of beautiful spots covered with noble trees and plantations, so diversified as to produce the most pleasing effect, some portions being park-like, with deer feeding on the herbage, or reposing under the shades of the majestic trees, there are three principal and very long avenues running parallel with each other; the centre is for carriages, the right for equestrians, and the left for promenaders on foot. By the side of the latter, are a number of picturesque huts or cottages, built of wood, and painted in lively colours; they are coffee-houses, or shops where various kinds of refreshments may be obtained.

In the Prater of Vienna may be said to be united the beauties and recreations of Hyde-Park and Kensington-Gardens, in London, and the *Champs-Élysées*, of Paris.

Vienna is celebrated for elegant equipages; and when from fifteen to eighteen thousand well-

dressed people, in handsome carriages, or mounted on spirited horses, or strolling along the grand avenue, are enjoying their promenade, whilst excellent bands of music are playing in different parts of the Prater, it must be a very pleasant and enlivening sight.

Vienna is one of the most musical cities in the world ; almost everybody, in all ranks of society, plays upon some instrument. The Viennese are lively and agreeable, and polite to strangers ; they have the advantage of numerous scientific and other establishments, to which the public are admitted gratuitously ; and all classes are generally well informed.

The inhabitants of Vienna are strongly attached to the imperial family ; and justly so : for, although the Austrian government is an absolute government, the emperor is looked up to as the father of his people. His majesty is easy of access, as are all the imperial family, and they do much good without ostentation. The Emperor Francis,

who reigned at the period Mr. Howard visited Vienna, was in the constant habit of walking about the city, and mixing with its inhabitants. There is no place where all ranks of society seem more at their ease than at Vienna.

The Roman Catholic religion is professed by the majority of the Austrians, but they are not intolerant. On the contrary, at Vienna, the Protestants enjoy the same civil rights as the Roman Catholics ; the only restriction imposed upon them being, that neither towers nor bells are allowed in the Protestant churches.

Next to the Roman Catholics, the Lutheran Protestants are the most numerous. There are a variety of other sects of Christians, who have their churches, or meeting-houses, and all live peaceably side by side.

The Jews have their synagogues.

The Cathedral of San Stefano is a fine Gothic edifice ; it is built entirely of freestone. Amongst many remarkable monuments in this cathedral,

is the mausoleum of the celebrated Prince Eugene of Savoy.

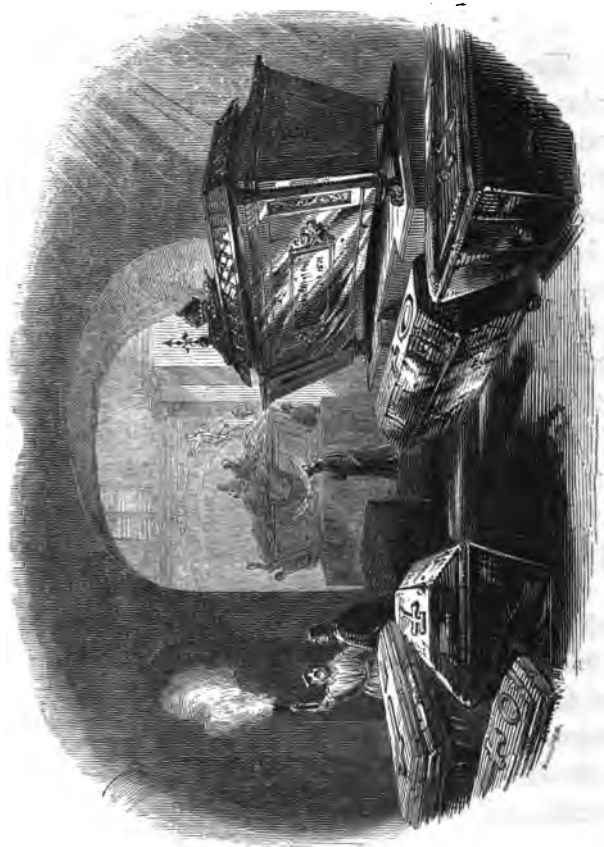
Seventeen princes of the house of Austria are interred in the vaults of the cathedral ; but since the year 1618, the bodies of the deceased princes have been deposited in the vaults of the Capuchin Convent, the hearts in those of the Augustin Monastery, and the entrails in the cathedral vaults.

The steeple is four hundred and thirty-four feet high, and was formerly surmounted by the Turkish crescent, which Sultan Solymán ordered to be placed there after his successful siege of Vienna, in 1589 ; but shortly after the memorable defeat of the Turks before Vienna, by John Sobieski, King of Poland, in 1683, it was removed, and its place supplied by a cross, which was blown down during a violent storm, about three months afterwards. At a later period, a globe was fixed on the top of the spire, over which hovers a gilded eagle, and the whole is surmounted by a cross.

The church of the Capuchin Convent, which is also a parish church, is one of the largest and most beautiful in Vienna. It is adorned by a monument, in white marble, by the celebrated sculptor Canova, to the memory of the Archduchess Maria-Christina, wife of His Royal Highness Albert Duke of Saxe-Teschen. The figures are exquisitely sculptured, and produce a most affecting impression on the mind of the observer : this is said to be Canova's best work.

The church of the Capuchins is of very simple construction, and is only remarkable for the vaults where the bodies of the deceased princes and princesses of the imperial family are deposited.

Mr. Howard descended into this abode of death, under the guidance of an old Capuchin friar. Each carried a lighted torch ; and it was a solemn scene, as they passed through a subterranean chapel where the more remarkable mausoleums are. They consist of large bronze coffins, embossed with *bas-reliefs*, and covered with Latin



inscriptions. They afterwards traversed a long gallery, on each side of which are niches, inclosed within iron railings.

The arsenal contains a number of very curious arms and trophies, taken from the Turks at different periods. There is also preserved the head of the Vizir, Kara Mustapha, commander of the immense Turkish army, by which Vienna was besieged in the year 1683. Kara means black, in Turkish, and the surname was given to the Vizir on account of his very swarthy complexion.

It was on the 13th of July, 1683, that the Turks, who having come to the aid of the revolted Hungarians, under Count Tekeli, had ravaged the country, destroyed several open towns, and had burnt the suburbs, appeared in great force close to the walls of Vienna ; which city had been abandoned a few days before by the Emperor Leopold, who retired to Lintz, the capital of Upper Austria, about one hundred miles from Vienna, which city was nobly defended by Count Rudiger

de Stahremberg, with thirteen thousand regular troops, and seven thousand armed citizens. On the 14th, the capital was completely surrounded by the Turkish forces, who besieged it with great skill, valour, and perseverance, for two months, reducing the inhabitants and the garrison to the utmost distress; but they defended themselves with great gallantry, and repulsed several attempts to take the place by storm.

Nevertheless, Vienna must, humanly speaking, have fallen before so overwhelming a force, and under so many privations, but for the timely arrival of the celebrated warrior, John Sobieski, king of Poland, to whom the Emperor had urgently applied for assistance. The force commanded by the King of Poland consisted of twenty-six thousand Polish troops, and fifty-eight thousand men of the German succours, collected by Duke Charles of Lorraine.

In the night of the 11th of September, 1683, the faithful Stahremberg, who, from a grated

window in the spire of the cathedral was anxiously watching for the preconcerted signals of approaching relief, as he had done through so many weeks, had the happiness of seeing them. The joyful intelligence was instantly communicated to the citizens and garrison, whose spirits became revived, and, on the morning of the memorable 12th of September, 1683, they descried, with rapture, the Christian standards floating on the heights skirting the vast plain, whitened with the tents of the infidels.

From those heights the gallant Sobieski rushed, at the head of his troops, upon the Turks, at break of day, and attacked them vigorously. The battle lasted the whole day ; but, at seven in the evening, the Moslems, completely beaten, took to flight, leaving the field covered with killed and wounded ; and abandoning the camp, their artillery, and an immense quantity of treasure and baggage.

Vienna was thus rescued from impending danger, and the Emperor Leopold re-entered his

capital two days afterwards. A solemn service of thanksgiving was immediately celebrated in the cathedral, at which the emperor was present; and in every other place of worship in the lately beleaguered city, public thanks were addressed to the Almighty for this great deliverance.

An amusing anecdote of the King of Poland, during the memorable battle with the Turks before Vienna, is related in the histories of the period; it is as follows:—

The Grand Vizir, Kara Mustapha, the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, had a small red tent pitched, under which he stationed himself during the engagement. The King of Poland no sooner perceived this red tent, by which he knew that the Vizir was there in person, than he ordered two or three small pieces of artillery, which happened to be near him, to be pointed towards it. The gallant king superintended the firing, and stimulated the cannoneers by the promise of fifty crowns for hitting the mark.

Unfortunately, there were but few bullets at hand, and the wadding having become exhausted, it is related that, at the last shot, king John



Sobieski rammed his wig, cravat, gloves, and a quantity of gazettes which he had in his pocket, into one of the guns, which was instantly fired

off. This method of throwing down the gauntlet had, at all events, the merit of originality, as well as of bravery; and a parcel of newspapers, wrapped up in a king's periwig, thus circulated with the rapidity of a cannon-shot, and uncere- moniously cast on the breakfast-table of the Grand Vizir, his two sons, and the Khan of the Tartars, who, it is said, were taking their coffee under the red tent, with Oriental calmness during the fight, must have made their mustachios curl up with astonishment.

The population of Vienna and its suburbs was computed at about three hundred thousand when Mr. Howard visited that city; and it increases considerably every year.



VIEW ON THE DANUBE.

CHAPTER VIII.

FROM Vienna Mr. Howard pursued his course homewards, enjoying the magnificent scenery which the windings of the Danube present to the view at different points of the road.

Near M^ölk, a small market-town, about fifty English miles from Vienna, on the road to Bavaria, the landscape is very attractive, as you look either up or down the river. There are picturesque castles on the brink of the precipitous banks of the Danube, which flows rapidly beneath, the grand mountain-scenery forming a magnificent back-ground; whilst, at another point, the river takes a turn, and winds through a romantic valley, at the extremity of which runs a narrow neck of land, terminated by a little town, the abode, in former times, of daring and reckless robbers, who pushed off in their boats and plundered vessels passing up and down the river; and concerning whose crimes fearful legends are preserved by the now peaceful and honest inhabitants.

The most striking object in this vicinity is the magnificent Benedictine monastery of M^ölk,* most beautifully situated on a rock of granite, over-

* See Frontispiece.

hanging the river, the little town lying beneath it. At a distance the traveller is led to imagine that he is approaching a noble city, there are so many domes, and the space the monastery occupies is so extensive. It has justly been called a palace-convent, for everything connected with it bears the stamp of almost regal magnificence.

Mr. Howard passed several hours at M \ddot{o} lk, and visited the monastery, or *kloster*, as it is called in German.

A suite of apartments was pointed out to him which had been inhabited by Napoleon, who established his head-quarters in the monastery for a short time, during one of his campaigns.

In one of the spacious rooms, which, however, was not remarkable for splendour, though handsomely and conveniently furnished, there was a small table, standing where it did when Napoleon occupied this room, and to which the following very curious history is attached :—


One night, the French Emperor, being alone

and seated at this table, suddenly tore up some papers which were before him, set fire to the fragments, cast them under the table, and then recommenced writing. The floor of the room is of inlaid wood, highly polished by means of wax—as is the case in superior apartments on the Continent—and it caught fire. The flames were soon extinguished, but the mark remains in the chamber of the Benedictine monastery at M \ddot{o} lk, as a memento of Napoleon's sojourn there.

Mr. Howard sat down, and, his eyes fixed upon the scorched flooring, thought of the remarkable personage who, but a few years before, had occupied that apartment, and at whose mandate this vast monastic edifice might have been razed to the earth, and all its treasures carried off. Was it a sudden burst of passion which induced Napoleon to destroy those papers? or was some secret document, which might have compromised himself or others, thus consigned to the flames, and left to consume at his feet?

In a valley, between the rock on which the monastery is built and the river, is a *hütter*, or country-house, of very modest appearance, where the Emperor of Austria, Francis the First, was in the habit of passing some time every summer, whilst a few monks, his subjects, inhabited the magnificent edifice by which it is dominated. Here, as elsewhere, Mr. Howard heard the most pleasing accounts of the unaffected and paternal habits of the Emperor and his family. His majesty was always kind and affable towards his humblest subjects, when he met them in his walks in the neighbourhood of his simple country-house.

The weather was unusually mild for the season, and, as Mr. Howard travelled along, the mountains of the Tyrol in the distance produced a grand effect. He frequently met parties of Tyrolese on the road and at the inns : they are a hardy, handsome race of men ; their port is manly, and their dress picturesque. They frequently wear green beaver hats, with very high, pointed crowns, and



narrow brims, having one green feather stuck in the side, or front.

The head-dress of the women in the neighbourhood of Enz, a town in Upper Austria, about



a hundred miles from Vienna, is curious, consisting of a cap made of a tissue of gold—at all events of gold—and covered with spangles.

This cap projects at the back of the head in the form of a fowl's tail.

Farther on, between Lambach and Ried, the country is highly cultivated, and there is an air of comfort among the peasantry ; the women wear broad grey beaver hats. The landlord of the inn at Ried, where Mr. Howard slept, was a man of respectable appearance and demeanour : the traveller entered into conversation with him, and heard a deplorable account of the sufferings of the harmless town's-people, from the passage of the hostile armies during the war.

We peruse the accounts of victories, and glory, in histories and newspapers ; and discuss, by our snug firesides in England, the merits of different military movements, frequently without reflecting on the dreadful evils which follow in the train of even the most just and successful wars, in the course of which it but too frequently happens that, in spite of the utmost vigilance, unoffending individuals and families are exposed to insult and

rapine ; and it is a duty incumbent upon those in whose hands the Almighty has been pleased to place the direction of governments, to use every exertion to arrange international differences without having recourse to the dreadful alternative of war.

Mr. Howard had travelled as far as Altheim, a small town within nine miles of the Bavarian frontier, in a carriage which he purchased at Vienna, having made an agreement with a person to convey him with the same horses to Strasbourg ; but he found this mode of travelling very inconvenient ; the *vetturino*, or driver, always persisted in halting at inferior inns ; and at Altheim, where they arrived late in the evening, the house they put up at was wretched, and filled with low and noisy company.

As Mr. Howard's remonstrances produced no effect, he began to consider how the evil might be remedied ; for he was one of those travellers who do not brood over inconveniences ; on the

contrary, he bore them patiently, and even cheerfully, while they lasted. At the same time, when decision and energy could be made available for their alleviation, he acted promptly and with spirit.

He therefore settled accounts equitably with the *vetturino*, and, ordering post-horses, left Altheim in good spirits at five o'clock in the morning. He entered the kingdom of Bavaria at the extremity of the town of Braunau, and arrived early on the following morning at the capital, Munich, or *Munchen* as it is called in German. It is a noble city, and contains many objects of great interest. The houses are lofty, the streets spacious, and there is a public garden of great extent, laid out with much taste. The king's palace is considered to be one of the most magnificent and commodious royal edifices in Europe; the state-apartments are superb. The treasury contains a great number of highly valuable diamonds and precious stones; also the royal crown of Bohemia, for the possession of

which there was so much contention and bloodshed. This dazzling crown was carefully locked up in a glass-case in the palace at Munich ; it was, happily, no longer a disputed crown, and is only preserved as a memento of the Elector of Bavaria, having, more than a hundred years ago, received, at Prague, the homage of the inhabitants of that city, as King of Bohemia.



The cabinet of curiosities and works of art in this palace are well deserving of the traveller's notice.

In the arsenal there is a rich collection of Turkish trophies ; and many saddles and bridles of curious workmanship, ornamented with jewels. Several of these were presented to the Elector of Bavaria, by John Sobieski, King of Poland, after the defeat of the Turks before Vienna, in token of his admiration of that Prince's conduct throughout the war.

There is a valuable museum of natural history and curiosities, entirely collected by Prince Maximilian, of Bavaria, during his travels in Brazil and other parts of South America. A very handsome edifice, of classic form, is dedicated to the reception of this most interesting collection.

After passing a few days very agreeably in the delightful city of Munich, Mr. Howard travelled through Bavaria, a pleasant and interesting

country, towards the kingdom of Wurtemberg, where the scenery is beautiful, and the country populous and fertile. For miles together the road skirts the banks of the river Neckar, whence rise steep hills, covered with vineyards.

The traveller did not remain at Stuttgard, the capital of Wurtemberg, long enough to visit the various objects of interest it contains; but pursued his course to Karlsruhe, the capital of the Grand Duchy of Baden. The road is exceedingly pleasant,—there is a succession of wood and water, castles and villas; whilst a plump, round-faced, happy-looking peasantry, filled up the picture most agreeably.

The approach to Karlsruhe is through an avenue of stately trees; a number of avenues of a similar description branch off, in different directions, in the form of an open fan, of which the ducal palace represents the handle. After rambling about the compact city of Karlsruhe for an hour or two, Mr. Howard proceeded on his way, at

dusk, and arrived at Kehl, on the Rhine, at three o'clock in the morning.

This is the German limit ; and it was contrary to the regulations to allow travellers to cross the bridge of boats to the French side of the river until after day-break : Mr. Howard, therefore, had to wait at a small inn, close to the bridge, for some hours. He found his way to the kitchen, where there was a good fire, and he obtained a cup of coffee, which he contentedly sipped in the chimney corner.

In due time he crossed the bridge, and the usual formalities regarding the examination of passports and luggage having been got through without difficulty, Mr. Howard was, by eight o'clock in the morning, comfortably seated in an arm-chair, before a good fire, in a well-furnished room, at one of the best hotels in Strasbourg, whose inhabitants speak French and German indiscriminately ; the names of persons, as well as of the streets, being rather German than French.

The most remarkable object towards which the traveller's attention is drawn in Strasbourg, is its



celebrated cathedral. The whole edifice, both externally and internally, is grand. Mr. Howard

ascended the tower, which is said to be the highest in Europe; its architecture is very superior. The view from the summit is extensive, and beautiful. There is a curious geographical dial on the parapet of the platform at the top of the tower; it points out the direction of the principal capital cities of Europe.

The monument to the memory of the celebrated Marshal Saxe, in the Lutheran church, is a highly interesting piece of sculpture.

From Strasbourg, Mr. Howard proceeded to Paris, and thence to England; but that route is so well known, that a description of it would be superfluous in this little work, the object of which is to give a concise account of countries which are not so frequently visited by travellers.

Mr. Howard's family and friends welcomed him heartily on his return to old England, and many a winter evening glided pleasantly away, whilst he recounted the incidents of his solitary journey to the Black Sea.

R. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.



N. CLAY, PRINTER, BREAD STREET HILL.

